

"Team Aruba" applauded
by ATA pg 5



Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnaval

HRMS Rotterdam begins a
4-month tour ... pg 8

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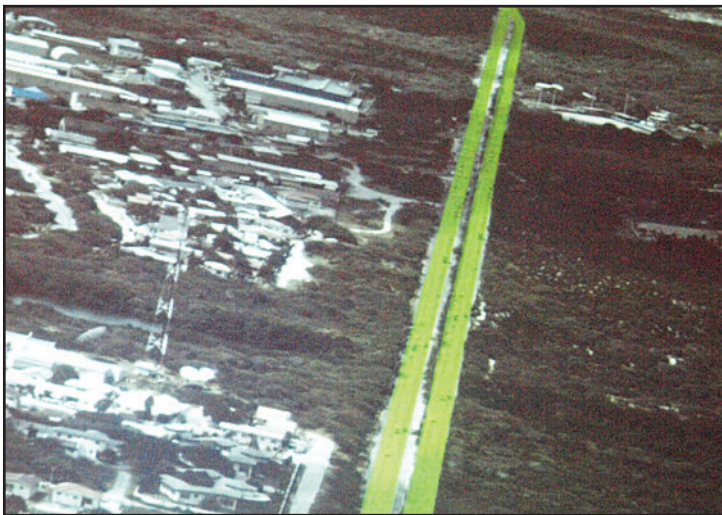
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The first PPP Conference: The Green Corridor

Exciting announcements from Prime Minister Mike Eman



Panel of speakers of PPP Green Corridor Conference



The proposed 4 lane Green Corridor to San Nicolas

Yesterday morning, Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Integration, Infrastructure and Environment, Oslin (Benny) Sevinger hosted the first PPP-Public/Private Partnership Conference at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad. Speakers and panel members included a group of experts who have advised Aruba's government how best to pursue this form of financing major projects regarding the island's infrastructure.

Spokesperson and moderator for the morning was Mr. Jan van Schoonhoven, Director of PPP Unit of the Dutch

Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment. Guest Speakers included Mr. Giridhar Srinivasan of Grand Trunk Partners, out of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Marcelle van Valkenburg, from the PPP Unit of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment and Mr. Paul Swanenvleugel, Director of PwC, Netherlands.

The purpose of the conference was to present a wide range of projects for which Aruba has or is about to craft tender agreements and accept bids; the government is seeking investors from the private sector to participate in ventures which will insure sustainable development of

Aruba.

This first meeting presented an overview; the first specific project on the table is a four-lane "Green Corridor" which will completely upgrade the only direct road from Oranjestad to San Nicolas. Prime Minister Eman was emphatic that consideration and protection of the surrounding environment is core to the project - the plan does not include removal or commercial development of existing green areas surrounding both sides of road as far as Savaneta. "In order to realize this vision of a more sustainable and global development of Aruba...looking back at the development of Aruba we asked some fundamental questions...Even in the midst of growth, there was a sense of disturbance. There was growth that made us ask "Is this where we want to be taking Aruba?" - He stated studies have shown, since 2000, growth that was based on the expansion of the tourism industry and reliance on income from operation of the refinery has now been proven to be counterproductive to the maintaining the island environment, culture and community.

Continued on page 3

Silver Anniversary expo of the Central Bank on display in Oranjestad



Central Bank President Jane Semeleer and Minister of Finance Mike de Meza welcome guests.

For coverage see page 4

Quota Ladies offering earplugs this Sunday

During San Nic. Children Parade



As customary the ladies of the Quota Club will be touring the Carnaval parades, selling earplugs for only AFLS 1. Tomorrow, during the Children's Carnival Parade they will be giving FREE earplugs to all children along the route.

Every year, Quota International of Aruba instills awareness and raises funds to help

the hearing, speech and visual impaired, less fortunate children and the *Hende Muhernan den Dificultad*, foundation for women in difficulty.

This year once again the dynamic ladies of Quota will be walking the parades campaigning for people take care of their hearing.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Kadhafi loyalists threaten to snuff out protests



Supporters of Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi take part in a pro-government rally in Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Libya (AFP) - Moamer Kadhafi's regime

vowed to snuff out attempts to challenge the Libyan leader, after an opposition "day of anger" became a bloodbath and two policemen were reported hanged by protesters.

According to a toll compiled by AFP from different local sources, at least 41 people have lost their lives since demonstrations first erupted.

Oea newspaper, which is close to Kadhafi's son Seif al-Islam, said they were killed after being captured in the eastern city of Al-Baida.

Security forces were deployed around Al-Baida, a source close to the authorities told AFP, following reports on the Internet that anti-regime protesters had seized control of the city.

Oea also reported that 20 people were buried in Libya's second city of Benghazi after being killed in protests. A previous toll supplied by a medical source in the city was 14 dead.

And protesters set fire to the headquarters of a local radio station in Benghazi after the building's guards with-

drew, witnesses and a security source told AFP.

Seven people were killed in protests in Derna, east of Benghazi, Oea reported.

Earlier, the Revolutionary Committees, which are the backbone of Kadhafi's regime, warned protesters in no uncertain terms.

"The response of the people and the Revolutionary Forces to any adventure by these small groups will be sharp and violent," the Revolutionary Committees said on the website of their newspaper, Azzahf Al-Akhdar (Green March).

"The power of the people, the Jamahiriya (government by the masses), the Revolution and the leader are all red lines, and anyone who tries to cross or approach them will be committing suicide and playing with fire."

Several thousand mourners went straight from weekly prayers to funerals for the Benghazi dead, witnesses told AFP, with one reporting that 13 victims were buried in the city's Hawari cemetery.

25 circus lions from Bolivia fly to freedom in US

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) - Twenty-five lions rescued from circuses in Bolivia under a law banning the use of wild animals for public shows arrived in their new open-air home in the United States, organizers said.

The 13 male and 12 female lions arrived in Denver, Colorado after being transported in special cages on a cargo flight from the south American country, said The Wild Animal Sanctuary.

Upon arrival at Denver International Airport the animals were transported in specially built rescue trailers to the sanctuary, located 48 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Denver, and released one by one into each of the eight temporary 1,400 square foot enclosures.

"As each lion entered their new home they felt grass on their toes for the first time ever," said the sanctuary.

"The lions were kept in the family groups they were rescued with and after close observation will be released into four different prides in 20 acre habitats with underground dens, shade structures and play structures to help them with enrichment and exercise," they

added.

The animals were brought from Bolivia by Animal Defenders International (ADI), which said its "Operation Lion Ark" was "the biggest rescue and airlift of lions ever seen."

ADI president Jan Creamer said the "truly remarkable beasts" were rescued "from their terrible conditions in the Bolivian circuses," with many malnourished, stressed and traumatized by their experiences. The group helped nurse the animals back to health before the transfer.

"All 25 of these 'brave-hearts' thoroughly deserve the life that awaits them in Colorado," Creamer said. "They will have acres to roam in and at last they will be allowed to be lions as nature intended. At last they will be free."

During the rescue ADI also seized six monkeys, a coati mundi (a member of the raccoon family), a deer and a horse, all of which were given to Bolivian sanctuaries or released back into the wild.

ADI said the effort began with its undercover investigation that exposed "horrific abuse in circuses across South America."



Albanian shout slogans during a protest in Tirana. Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters rallied in Albania's capital yesterday, nearly a month after four demonstrators were killed in a similar protest that turned violent

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The first PPP Conference: Obama, Michelle off to Latin America, England

Continued from page 1



Prime Minister Eman

The present administration has continually shown a concern for Aruba's energy needs in the future and their willingness to explore alternative and renewable fuel sources. During the October Green Energy Conference the possibility of establishing a research institute on Aruba dedicated to such new technologies was presented; during his opening address at Friday's event, Minister Eman announced TNO Delft has confirmed to adopt the project and start a Research Institute for Durable Investment. One of the first proposed innovations to be tested is directly related to the PPP Green Corridor; a solar road of 500 meters will be part of it. The solar road will be a bicycle path made of a specialized, non-slippery glass, which will collect solar energy. The potential for this not only benefits the

populace directly with a safe bike and jogging path, but may also offer a tangible commodity that can generate income; it is believed Aruba will be an excellent testing ground for judging the durability, practicality and output.

Minister Eman expressed his gratitude to the individuals from Holland who have dedicated a great deal of their time to help the island to craft and hopefully realize the PPP program. The numerous issues raised and proposed solutions discussed during the conference will be presented over the next week with individual articles that will allow deeper analysis, beginning with more detailed



Minister Sevinger

statements by Prim Minister Eman and the projects proposed by Minister Sevinger for which they are seeking private partnership in funding.

by Rosalie Klein

WASHINGTON -- President Obama and First Lady Michelle have two international trips coming up, to Latin America in March and the United Kingdom in May.

The First Couple travel to Brazil, Chile and El Salvador March 19-23.

"The trip will provide an opportunity to engage key bilateral partners, to highlight the President's engagement

with the hemisphere, and to advance our efforts to work as equal partners to address the basic challenges facing the people of the Americas. The visit will include events in Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago and San Salvador," the White House said, on Friday.

The First Couple accepted an invite from Her Majesty the Queen, and will fly to the

UK for a state visit on May 24-26.

"This trip will be President Obama's first European state visit, a sign of the strength of the special relationship between our two countries, and of the United States' enduring commitment to its European and NATO allies and partners," the White House said.

Dutch 2010 budget deficit was 5.2 pct of GDP

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands - The Dutch government deficit came in lower than expected in 2010 at 5.2 percent of gross domestic product, but budget cuts will continue as planned, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said yesterday.

The government plans to cut spending by a cumulative 18 billion euros (\$24 billion) by 2015, and expects to bring the deficit below 3 percent in 2012, a year ahead of the Eu-

ropean Commission's target date.

Some of the government's spending cuts, particularly in education, have attracted public criticism in the run-up to next month's provincial elections.

"We will continue with budget cuts. The package of 18 billion euros will be implemented," Rutte said.

The budget deficit in 2010 was expected to reach 5.8 percent of GDP, according to

December estimates from the government's policy analysis agency CPB, but came in lower, at 5.2 percent of GDP, because tax collection exceeded the target.

The CPB expects a 4.1 percent deficit in 2011.

Rutte's Liberal-Christian Democrat coalition government, formed in October, faces provincial elections on Mar. 2 which will, in turn, determine the allocation of seats in the senate, or upper house.

Dutch to help Italy with Tunisian migrants

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- The Netherlands is to send a coastguard plane and border guards to Italy to help deal with the huge number of asylum seekers coming there from North African countries,

especially Tunisia.

Asylum Minister Gerd Leers proposed the move partly on behalf of the foreign and defence ministries. The plane will patrol in Italian airspace and two Dutch border

guards will be deployed on the Italian island of Lampedusa. Many of the would-be immigrants try to make the sea crossing to the island.

Mr Leers says most of those who arrive at Lampedusa are economic migrants.

The Dutch move comes after Italy asked the European Union's border security agency, Frontex, for help. At the end of 2010, Greece made a similar request after which Dutch border guards were deployed to help there.

US urges Venezuela to let OAS visit hunger-strikers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States has urged Venezuela to allow the Organization of American States to visit youths who are on a hunger strike seeking the release of two political prisoners. "We urge the Venezuelan government to agree to a visit by the OAS as a means to promote dialogue and understanding," the State Department said in a statement late Thursday.

The group of 13 Venezuelan youths, most of them students, have been on a fast since early February outside the OAS office in Caracas to press for the release of two jailed opposition deputies.

One of the deputies is awaiting trial on corruption charges, while the other was found guilty of being complicit in a homicide. The opposition charges that they were prose-

cuted for political reasons.

"We are concerned about the health and well being of the students who are risking their lives for their belief in democratic governance and individual liberties," the State Department said.

Among the hunger-strikers' demands is a visit by the OAS, but its secretary general Jose Miguel Insulza has said the regional organization cannot send a mission unless the government of President Hugo Chavez agrees.

Venezuelan authorities assert that the youths are protesting about internal matters that do not concern the OAS.

On a previous occasion, Caracas authorized an OAS visit in response to another hunger strike by a group of youths.



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Silver Anniversary exposition of the Central Bank on display in Oranjestad



The exhibition hall



Jane Semeleer provides a brief history for gathering of local dignitaries



Miriam Gonzales, Executive Director Prakash Mungra and Jane Semeleer

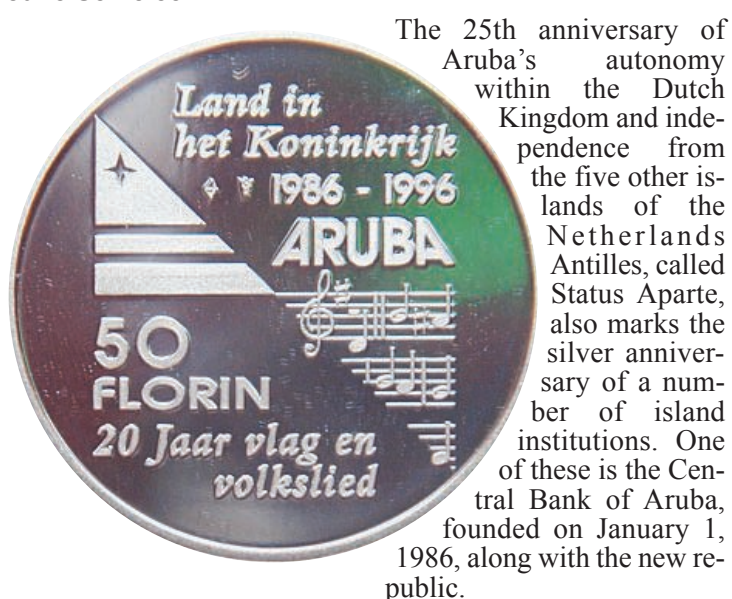


island dignitaries, including Minister of Finance, Communication, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza, to the festive celebratory event, Thursday evening, February 17. She provided a brief history of the bank and the island's currency before jointly opening the doors to the exhibit hall with Minister de Meza.

The Central Bank of Aruba is a legal entity in itself (sui generis) with an autonomous position within Aruba's public sector. With the inception of the Bank, the Aruban florin was brought into circulation, pegged to the U.S. dollar at a rate of Afl. 1.79 = US\$ 1.00. This exchange rate has remained constant for 25 years.

The principle tasks of the Bank are to maintain the internal and external value of the florin and to promote the soundness and integrity of the financial system, accomplished by motivated and qualified employees, for the general benefit and well-being of the people of Aruba.

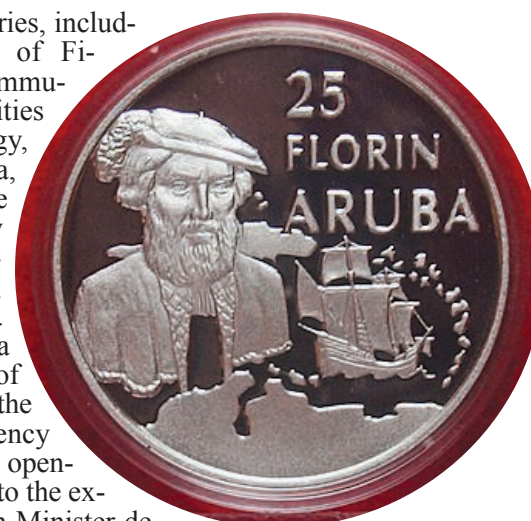
On exhibit are numerous samples of Aruban currency. The original transitory Aruban florin, which circulated from 1986 through 1989, was very similar to the Netherlands Antilles florin used previously. Artist Evelino Fingal was commissioned to design money that would be distinct.



The 25th anniversary of Aruba's autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom and independence from the five other islands of the Netherlands Antilles, called Status Aparte, also marks the silver anniversary of a number of island institutions. One of these is the Central Bank of Aruba, founded on January 1, 1986, along with the new republic.



Yesterday, the exposition "25 Years of the Central Bank and our Florins" opened to the public at the historical annex of the Protestant Church in Oranjestad, which was the original church built in 1846. Central Bank President Jane Semeleer, flanked by Executive Directors Miriam Gonzales and Prakash Mungra, welcomed

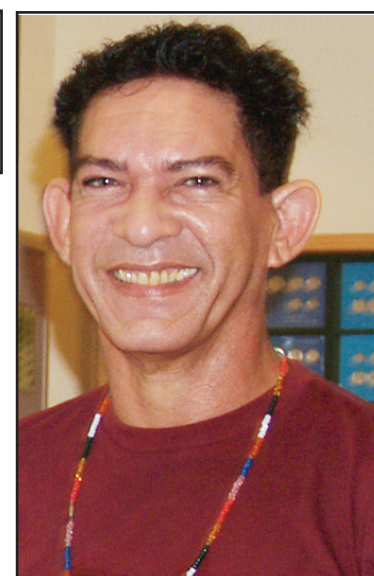


Commemorative 500 years since the discovery of Aruba

He combined images of indigenous animals with motifs from ancient Amerindian pottery, emphasizing the relationship between the island's past and present.

In 1990 and 1993, new sets of florin bank notes were issued, printed at "Jan Enschedé en Zonen" in the Netherlands. The paper money features raised marks for the visually-impaired and denominations range from 10 Aruban florins to 500. Aside from mint sets of coins in circulation, the exposition displays the 25 sets of beautiful silver commemoratives issued by the Central Bank over the years. These can be ordered from the Central Bank through their website, <http://www.cbaruba.org>.

The exposition will continue in the annex of the Protestant Church until April 15; it is open to the public



Evelino Fingal designer of Aruba's distinctive money



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by Rosalie Klein.

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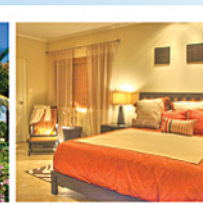
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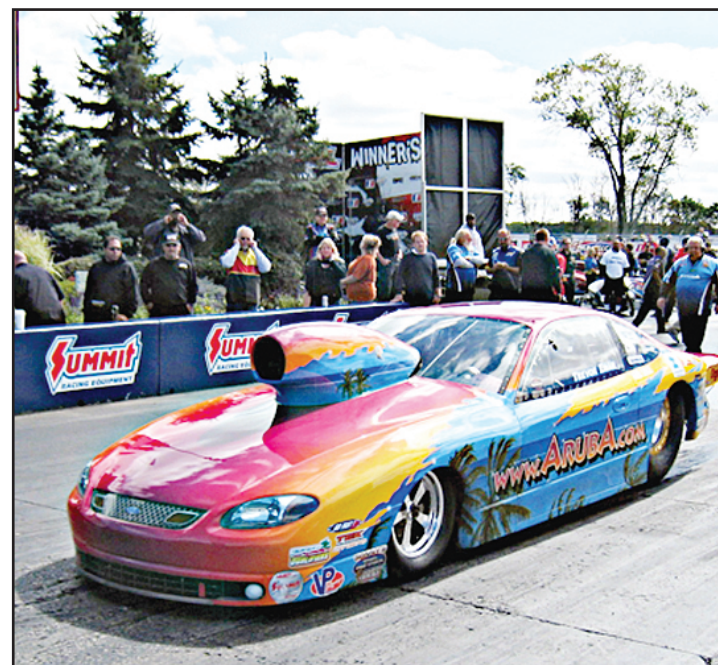


Currently on Aruba is the massive trailer of the Team Aruba group, which they use for their drag racing episodes in the US. After 4 years of drag racing in the US they are now racing at a professional level and have achieved the highest level in the American Drag Racing League as well as for Mountain Motor Pro Stock Association.

The race car used for the drag races is piloted by the youngest dragger in his category, namely, Trevor Eman. Eman has consistently qualified as the best pilot among 16 others.

The Team Aruba trailer promotes www.aruba.com in a big way and is the trailer that captivates more attention from everyone. Its bright col-

ors and unique design are very eye-catching at all the races. The 38 feet trailer with its unique artwork and the race cars with their special designs are considered “Aruba’s Biggest Advertisement Billboard.” The pit stop of the Aruba racers is decorated with coconut trees with a display and Aruba giveaway items, also considered



the most decorative and consequently, the most visited area.

Aruban pilot, Trevor Eman’s helmet is affixed with the Aruba logo, while his crew’s uniform flanks the Aruba logo on both front and back of the uniform. Each crew member acts as ambassadors of Aruba and hands out Aruba flyers and keepsakes.

Team Aruba is located in Union, South Carolina where there is a billboard of Aruba

on the roadside along with an Aruban flag on highway 76.

Team Aruba received promotional material from the ATA Office which they would use in their activities. The accompanying photos show ATA CEO, Mrs. Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, together with the ATA Office crew after presenting the promotional material to Mr. Ven Eman, who brought his team and the Team trailer to the ATA Offices; and the Aruba Team car.

Sci-Tech

Canon announces new image-Prograf large format printers

Two new large format printers from Canon are ready for their big close-up at the Wedding & Portrait Photographer International (WPPI) Convention in Las Vegas next week.

The 24-inch and 44-inch models of Canon's imagePrograf line of large page printers have a new 8-color system (cyan, magenta, yellow, black, matte black, photo cyan, photo magenta and gray) and Canon's "Lucia Ex" ink-set, which can achieve greater details in

shadows, deeper black density, and improved scratch resistance.

Canon also added a built-in color calibration function that compensates for color variations caused by age and environmental photo effects and increases the color representation across the wider printing formats.

The imagePrograf models also have an increased output speed that can produce prints at twice the normal speed of the current 8-color models and at half the normal ink

consumption. Canon clocked the 44-inch model at an average of 80 seconds and the 24-inch model at roughly 35 seconds to produce a B0-sized page. Each of the S-series printers also comes with a 160GB hard drive that allows the printer to print multiple pages without the use of a computer.

Both models will ship this April with a price tag of \$4,995 for the 44-inch model and \$2,995 for the 24-inch model.

Facebook adds civil unions to profiles

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Facebook began letting its more than 600 million members indicate whether they are in civil unions or domestic partnerships in what was seen as a victory for same-sex couples.

Facebook added "in a civil union" and "in a domestic partnership" to the list of relationship options in profiles.

The list has long included single, married, divorced, open relationship, and "it's complicated."

Facebook on Thursday said the additions were "highly requested" by users and that the California-based online social networking star wanted to let people "genuinely and authentically reflect their relationships" in

the virtual community.

Facebook members can choose whether to make gender and relationship status

part of profile information made public in the online community.

Football-playing Japanese robots in Peru exhibit



LIMA (AFP) — Eight robots that play football, engage in sumo wrestling and play

music were unveiled Thursday at a Peruvian university by the creator, Japanese scientist Hiroshi Ishiguro.

Aurelio Padilla, president of the National Engineering University (UNI), where they were presented, explained that two robots are football players, two sumo wrestlers and three make music.

At the same event, students and researchers at the school presented their creations, such as a biped dinosaur robot, a robotic football player and a humanoid robot.

Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo looks at the Gold Cup, one of the most important exhibits at Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds exhibition at the ArtScience Museum in Marina Bay Sands on February 18, 2011. The unusually heavy and expensive Gold Cup, thought to be made in Yangzhou, is one of the most important Tang gold objects found outside China. The gold octagonal cup is decorated with figures of Central Asian musicians and a dancer. The cup is the largest and heaviest Chinese example of its kind, upstaging even pieces known to have been given by the Tang imperial family to the Famen Temple in the capital of Xi'an. The rare and precious nature of the cup

raises many intriguing questions about why the object was on board the ship and who might have owned it. The exhibition also illustrates the human stories of the ship's crew, whose few surviving belongings provide clues to their multi-ethnic identities. (AFP PHOTO)

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Electrode therapy aids severe compulsive disorder

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The use of brain surgery to treat psychiatric disorders has long been controversial, but new technologies are emerging that can help people with severe illnesses, scientists said Friday.

However, experts urged caution because they still do not understand exactly how these therapies work, and so they should be limited to patients with debilitating disorders that cannot be helped by psychotherapy or medication.

One new therapy discussed Friday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was the use of deep brain stimulation to ease obsessive compulsive disorder, or OCD.

The technique, approved in 2009 by the US Food and Drug Administration for extreme cases under its humanitarian device exemption, involves the insertion of a thin electrode deep in the brain.

The electrical current has been shown to reduce OCD symptoms by about 25 percent in some patients. The technique has been tried on just over 50 people in the United States since the research first began in 2000.

"These techniques are promising but must be used with an abundance of caution," said Benjamin Greenberg, associate professor of psychiatry and human behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

"This is reserved for the small proportion of people who are severely disabled and have not benefitted anywhere near adequately from very aggressive use of conventional treatments."

About one percent of adults are affected by OCD, experts say. To qualify for treatment with the brain electrodes, patients must show "severe and chronically disabling illness despite at least five years of aggressive treatment," Greenberg said.

Firewall architect admits skirting China barriers

SHANGHAI (AFP) — The architect of China's "Great Firewall" has admitted using software to circumvent the vast system of Internet censorship -- but only to probe the security of his widely reviled creation.

Fang Binxing said he uses six virtual private networks (VPNs) to scale the government's far-reaching online barrier, whose restrictions on sensitive content extend to banning Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

"I have six VPNs on my

home computer," Fang, 50, said in a rare interview published in Friday's Global Times newspaper.

But Fang, president of the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, said he uses them purely to test the firewall's effectiveness.

"I'm not interested in reading messy information like some of that anti-government stuff," Fang told the English-language state newspaper.

Fang also defended the Great Firewall, calling it "urgently" needed.

He is considered the inventor of the system, which filters out information deemed subversive or politically harmful by China's communist government.

China has sanitised media reports on the Middle East unrest and restricted online discussion of it, apparently fearful it could spark calls for democracy at home.

China has a world-leading 457 million Internet users, according to official figures, and countless Chinese find ways to access banned content through VPNs.

Health & Living

Early baldness doubles risk of prostate cancer

PARIS (AFP) — Men who start to lose their hair by age 20 -- a syndrome known as pattern baldness -- are twice as likely to develop prostate cancer later in life, according to a new study.

The findings, published this week in the *Annals of Oncology*, could help identify men who should be screened early and more often for disease, the researchers said.

Prostate cancer is the commonest non-skin cancer among men worldwide and, after lung tumours, is the second biggest cause of death from cancer among men in the United States and Europe. Most cases occur among men aged in their sixties.

Earlier research has shown that sex hormones called androgens play a key role in the development of both pattern baldness and cancer of the prostate, a walnut-sized gland near the bladder crucial to the male reproductive system.

But the link between the two remained obscure, with at least one study suggesting that premature baldness actually pointed to a reduced risk of cancer.

To probe further, a team of scientists led by Philippe Giraud of Georges Pompidou European Hospital in Paris asked 669 men -- 338 of whom had a history of prostate cancer -- how bald they were at ages 20, 30 and 40, using standardised images for reference.

Men who did not start to lose their hair until age 30 or 40 showed no increased risk compared to the control group of developing the dreaded disease.

But for those who had early-onset balding -- a condition known to doctors as androgenic alopecia -- at age 20, the risk doubled.

Many countries have routine screening programmes for men in their middle age.

One of the problems, however, is that the so-called PSA antigen test, now 20 years old, cannot distinguish between low-risk tumours and aggressive lesions that are often fatal.

Antigen levels can also fluctuate according to the individual and may be skewed by prostate inflammation.

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US researchers hopeful for dengue vaccine

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AFP) Promising advances have been made in the testing of possible vaccines to prevent the mosquito-borne dengue virus, which kills 25,000 people every year, researchers said.

Regional health researchers met in the Puerto Rican capital to discuss progress and treatment of dengue, which is transmitted to humans by the female *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Dengue causes a severe flu-like illness for most victims that lasts about a week. There are four strains, one of which is a potentially lethal type.

Dengue has reemerged in recent years as a serious public health threat in tropical regions.

It killed 1,167 people in Latin America last year. Puerto Rico recorded the largest outbreak in its history with

21,000 cases last year, according to the US Centers for Disease Control. There were 69 cases in the Key West section of the US state of Florida in 2010.

The Philippines recorded more than 730 deaths and Malaysia 134 in 2010, according to figures from the World Health Organization, while India experienced a 20-year high in infections.

Harold Margolis, director of the CDC's dengue center, said he's hopeful that a vaccine would soon be available. One theory for the resurgence is global warming, allowing the mosquitoes, and hence dengue fever, to spread. The three-day summit in Puerto Rico was hosted by NIH, CDC and the Pan American Health Organization.

A must see while on Aruba!

The Aruba Ostrich Farm



Welcome to an activity at Aruba you can't miss! When you think of Aruba, you probably think sea, sun and beach. But Aruba has more to offer than that, there're different sort of activities you can do. A must see when you are at Aruba, is the Aruba Ostrich Farm.

Although Africa is the native land of the ostrich, this intriguing bird finds a perfect home in Aruba's rugged landscape. The Aruba Ostrich Farm welcomes you to come and meet its 80-count flock of the largest living species in the world.

Visitors are encouraged to partake in a guided tour of the farm, inhabited by both ostriches and their flightless Australian relatives, emus. The tour provides the opportunity to learn about the natural behavior and survival instincts of these amazing creatures through detailed information as well as per-

sonal encounters with the birds.

Before or after the tour, guests are welcome to peruse the African Art Shop, chock-full of authentic goods from South Africa. Or simply relax in the shade of the sprawling Savanna Lodge Bar & Restaurant and sample a delicious ostrich meat dish. Enjoy the panoramic views of the island's northern coast while sipping on a fruity shake or frosty beer from the bar.

The Aruba Ostrich Farm is dedicated to providing a memorable and unique experience for all guests. It's one of the things you have to do when you are at Aruba.

The ostrich farm is located along the road leading to the Natural Bridge (Mati-vidiri 57). Opening hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with tour ever half hour. Kitchen opening hours are from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

HRMS Rotterdam begins a 4-month tour with a welcome from Governor Refunjol

The Landing Platform Dock, (LPD) HRMS Rotterdam anchored off Aruba's shores on Thursday, February 17, to welcome aboard Aruba's Governor Fredis Refunjol, before conducting some training exercises with locally based Royal Dutch Marines stationed at the camp in Savaneta.

The Rotterdam is built for amphibious tasks, which include the ability to embark, transport and disembark a full Marine Corps battalion, including the associated combat and logistic support vehicles and equipment.

The ship carries provisions and stores for battalion transportation for more than ten days, including its own desalination facility for seawater. The vessel is also capable of transferring reserve forces and for the evacuation of casualties.

The ship is operated by a crew of 124, including 13 officers. Accommodation is also provided for a fully equipped marine battalion or up to 613 troops. There are facilities to transport 170 armored personnel carriers, or 33 main battle tanks, and also docking facilities for up to 6 landing craft.

Governor Refunjol was met on the shore by Major Peter de Vreng and his 2nd boat company, who transported him via landing vessel to be greeted by Commander van der Berg on The Rotterdam. The ship was welcomed in Curacao the day before, where it also engaged in training with the Royal Dutch Marines stationed there.

The ship will also visit Bonaire before continuing with its 4-month mission working with local Coast Guard to intercept any smuggling operations; it will remain anchored in Curacao during operations. 4 helicopters will coordinate with Coast Guard vessels for air to surface surveillance of the waters around the three islands in a concerted effort to deter transport of illegal substances.

by Rosalie Klein



Governor Refunjol welcomed by Major Peter de Vreng



Major de Vreng and his unit are the welcome committee



Governor Refunjol enjoys the outing





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Aruba Trading Company and Carambola combine for an elegant introduction to new Barton & Guestier wines



Raphael Wever and Guests

Aruba Trading Company Wine Portfolio Manager Rafael Wever was proud to introduce Audrey Clos, Barton & Guestier winery's area export manager for Eastern Europe, Central & Latin America & Caribbean to a group of 25 select guests at the Carambola restaurant in Paradise Beach Villas on Thursday evening, February 17.

Audrey was on island to launch a number of select new vintages from B & G, and ATC had coordinated with Chef Harold of Carambola to introduce a number of restaurateurs and F & B Managers to introduce them in a most spectacular fashion.

The upper level of Carambola indeed provides an excellent ambiance for the slow savoring of fine food paired with superb wines; Chef Harold states he was "thrilled to be presented with the challenge."

The feast began with a Thomas Barton Graves paired with Farouk Salad, featuring shrimp and strawberries wrapped in Parma ham followed by Hot Oysters and Foie Gras enhance by B & G

Pinot Noir Reserve.

A fish course of Asian Seabass was matched with B & G Chardonnay Reserve and the Rack of Lamb main course accompanied by a Mascarpone Polenta and Blueberry Sauce a hearty Medoc Les Charmes de Magnol.

The memorable gourmet meal ended on a sweet note with Carambola Cheese Trio; a cheese tartlet combining Roquefort, Mascarpone and Strawberry Cream Cheese to create a distinctive finish, as did the B & G St. Emilion with which it was paired.

It was an evening of indulgence and a perfect pairing of venues, vintages and sumptuous dishes to welcome these new additions to Aruba Trading Company's Barton & Guestier portfolio.



Audrey Clos

by Rosalie Klein

Linda Magazine to feature Aruba by Dutch Press



A Dutch fashion magazine team recently visited Aruba. After scouting around the Linda Magazine team visited various locations for their filming sessions. They were also privileged to witness various island activities as well as tourist sites. They were able to form their own opinion of Aruba's tourism which would enable them to present a clear picture of what their readers could expect from an Aruban vacation.

Amayra Boekhoudt and Rayon Koolman, representatives of the ATA Office prepared an extensive program for our Dutch visitors and accompanied them during their visit. They enjoyed a De Palm Tours Catamaran (sail boat) trip and visited various restaurants, such as Papiamento, Bucuti, Tierra Del Sol, Old Fisherman and Jads. They were guest of the luxurious Renaissance Resort.

The objective of ATA is to invite news reporters to do editorials and advertisement and to offer our tourism partners the opportunity to promote via word of mouth.

Linda Magazine will be

promoting Aruba in two editions of their magazine. The first article will be on magazine stands in the month of March and the second edition will appear in June. Contrary to other fashion magazines, Linda Magazine rather than using professional fashion models, they use employs the services of well-known Dutch personalities. Sara Koningsberger and Renske de Graaf were among the models featured this time. Linda Fashion Magazine has a circulation of 225,000. In addition to fashion models, the magazine will also highlight Aruba as a tourism destination.

ATA expressed gratitude to all her tourism partners who participated in one way or the other to make this visit a pleasant one.



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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Border on
5. Hooded snake
10. RBI, e.g.
14. Antitoxins
15. Perpendicular to midships
16. _____ Stanley Gardner
17. East Indian wood
18. Bellini opera
19. "A Bronx _____"
20. Presque _____ Bay
21. '40s song
23. Pairs
25. Canvas shelters
26. Carrie or Eddie
29. Itinerant
32. Staggering
33. Achy
34. Newsman
37. '40s song
41. Chou En-_____
42. Connections
43. Permit
44. Slumbered
46. Quiet
47. Schedule
50. "King _____"
51. '40s song
55. Arabian bigwig
59. Union organizer
60. "M*A*S*H" character

DOWN

61. Commotion
62. Repetition
63. Animated
64. Gaucho's weapon
65. _____ bien
66. Surfeited
67. North Sea feeder
1. Italian wine region
2. Hive occupants
3. Russian range
4. '40s song, with 11 Down
5. Synagogue singer
6. Woodwinds
7. Road shoulder
8. Incline
9. He loves: Lat.
10. Hunting dog
11. See 4 Down
12. Apportion
13. High-schoolers
22. Had a repast
24. Bandleader
26. Flunk
27. Marie Wilson role
28. Trucker's rig
29. Thesaurus author
30. Sun and moon
31. Victory sign
33. Sassy one
34. Omit

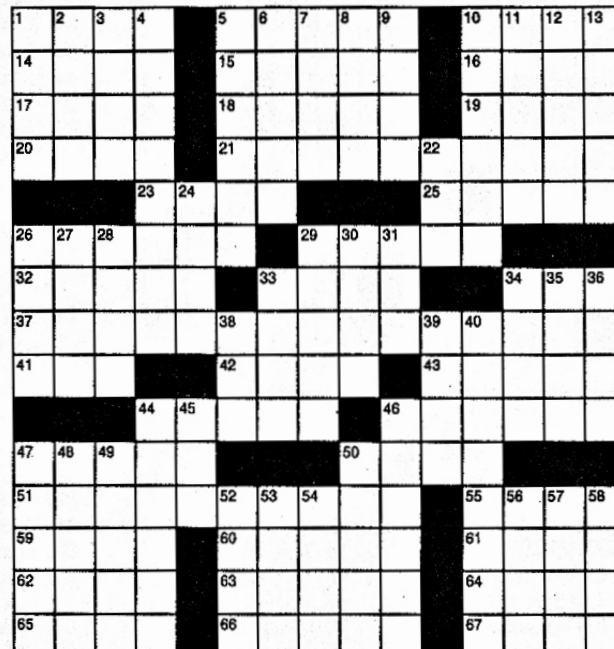
35. Connecticut town

36. Certain salamander
38. Follower: suff.
39. Reclined
40. '40s song
44. Fence steps
45. Pasture
46. Flew high
47. "Get _____"

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• '40's SONGS •

48. Toil
49. Sharp crest
50. Scamp
52. Geological divisions
53. Refrain syllables
54. Revise
56. Barnyard sounds
57. Otiose
58. Crowd noise



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February 12 - February 19

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	9	9	7	1	6	8	8	
8	7	7	2	8	6	9	1	9
6	1	8	9	8	9	7	7	2
9	6	9	7	2	7	1	8	6
4	6	1	9	6	8	2	7	9
7	8	2	1	9	8	4	9	6
1	4	8	6	9	2	8	9	7
8	2	7	8	1	9	9	6	4
9	9	6	8	7	4	8	2	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BRIEFS:

Ford replaces Fiat in Russia tie-up:

MOSCOW (AFP) – US auto giant Ford stepped to replace Italy's Fiat in a joint venture with a Russian automobile assembly group that enjoys a strategic foothold in the booming post-Soviet car market.

Russia's second-largest auto assembly company Sollers has been the focus of growing international attention after developing a reputation as a reliable partner for car makers such as South Korea's SsangYong and Japan's Isuzu.

It began producing Fiat cars in 2006 and signed a celebrated framework agreement with the Italian company at a February 2010 ceremony that was attended personally by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

But the joint venture collapsed without an explanation -- and with the Russian firm taking only moments to announce a new deal with Ford.

=====

Greece's top two banks in friendly merger talks: NBG

ATHENS (AFP) – Greece's top bank NBG announced a merger proposal with Alpha Bank aiming to build the country's largest, best capitalised lender, and support the recovery of the beleaguered Greek economy.

The announcement on the two leading lenders, which have a total of some 1,000 branches in Greece, pushed up the Athens stock exchange index by 3.16 percent as the finance minister welcomed the move.

The shares of other prominent Greek lenders Eurobank and Piraeus Bank closed with gains of over 15 percent after NBG revealed the merger proposal.

=====

Spain okays plan to shore up troubled savings banks:

MADRID (AFP) – Spain's government approved tough new rules that require the country's troubled savings banks to boost their core capital in a bid to shore up confidence in its battered economy. The move came as the central bank said Spanish banks' non-performing loans ratio, a key indicator of their financial health, jumped to its highest level since 1995.

Spain's regional savings banks are weighed down by loans that turned sour after the collapse of a housing bubble in 2008 and are at the heart of fears the country could need a much bigger rescue than those granted by the EU and International Monetary Fund to Ireland and Greece last year.

=====

G20 finance chiefs meet on global imbalances



Some of the Finance ministers from the G20 leading economies during a meeting in South Korea

PARIS, France (AFP) – G20 ministers gather in Paris to hammer out common criteria for measuring global economic imbalances at a two-day session that host France hopes will lead to an overhaul of world finance.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy was due to receive the ministers and central bankers from the 20 top developed and developing economies at 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) at the Elysee palace and give a speech, his

office said.

Sarkozy has vowed to reform the world monetary system and commodities markets during his year at the G20 helm, saying he aims to defend poor economies from currency and trade turbulence.

Before treating the illness, leaders must agree on the symptoms, so these talks -- the first official G20 gathering of France's presidency -- will seek to agree on the indicators to be used to measure the eco-

Miner Anglo American 2010 profit nearly triples

LONDON, England (AFP) – Global miner Anglo American said that net profits almost tripled to \$6.54 billion (4.82 billion euros) last year, as the sector was boosted by soaring commodity prices and emerging markets demand.

Earnings after tax rocketed 170 percent in 2010 from \$2.43 billion in 2009, London-based Anglo American said in a results statement.

The firm, which has key mining operations in South Africa, said operating profit almost doubled to \$9.8 billion in 2010 while revenues jumped 34 percent to \$32.93 billion.

Anglo added that demand growth would be driven by the rapid economic expansion of emerging markets -- particularly China and India.

The resources sector enjoyed a vintage year in 2010 owing to sky-rocketing prices for vital raw materials and booming emerging-markets

demand.

Earlier this week, the world's top miner BHP Billiton said its half-year net profits soared 72 percent to \$10.52 billion while global giant Rio Tinto said its annual net profits almost tripled to \$14.32 billion.

Copper, iron ore, tin and gold are near all-time record peaks, while silver and palladium are at multi-decade highs and aluminum, nickel, platinum and coal have risen to their highest levels since the global financial crisis.

Separately, Anglo also unveiled a joint-venture with French building material giant Lafarge to create a leading UK construction materials company with annual sales of about £1.8 billion.

Despite news of rocketing profits, Anglo saw its share price slide 3.02 percent to 3,208.50 pence on London's FTSE 100 index of leading companies, which was 0.48 percent lower approaching midday.

conomic gaps between them.

A source close to the negotiations said there has already been "quite tough debate" over the French plans, with the so-called "BRICS" -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- expressing strong reservations.

The BRICS nations have scheduled a side meeting of the formal G20 talks.

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was to hold a closed meeting with Lagarde and separately take part in a financial seminar at 1445 GMT, his office said.

The meetings will culminate in a key news conference by Lagarde on and briefings are expected by other delegations.

Some Western powers see the talks as "a roundabout way of ultimately treating the problem of China," whose huge trade surplus and foreign currency reserves they see as the most important of the global imbalances, the source said.

The United States and other Western powers accuse China of holding down its currency to boost Chinese exports. China denies any such manipulation, blaming the imbalance on structural problems in its trade partners' economies.

China last year resisted a US proposal to stabilise current account balances by setting a four-percent cap on countries' deficits and surpluses.

France and others have also talked of trying to curb the dollar's supremacy as the world currency of reference. The US delegation says it wants to focus more on the effect of volatility in capital flows between countries.

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A	G	E	E	N	O	T	O	N	V	I	C	E
D	U	T	C	H	U	N	C	L	E	E	G	E
E	A	S	T	E	R	N	S	I	N	B	A	D
A	R	E	E	L	I	T	E	R				
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O	E	D	O	R	N	E	A	H	E	C	K	
L	E	V	E	R	E	T	S	C	A	R	E	S
N	A	P	S	S	H	I	R	T				
G	O	A	L	I	E	A	T	A	L	E	O	F
E	L	U	L	M	A	M	A	L	E	O	N	E
L	I	N	E	A	R	O	A	R	S	A	T	E
T	O	T	E	N	O	E	L	S	S	N	O	T

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keeshi Yena with plantains & vegetables

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellow-pages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry



all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and res-

idents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

"Two and A Half Men" production to resume February 28

LOS ANGELES, California -- "Two and a Half Men" will resume production February 28, sources confirmed to The Hollywood Reporter.

The CBS comedy has been on hiatus since Charlie Sheen entered rehab on January 28, a day after being admitted to a hospital because of abdominal pain.

Up to \$250 million in domestic syndication deals -- as well as millions more in ad revenue -- were in jeopardy because of the shutdown. Sheen reportedly offered to cover one-third of the salaries of the "Two and a Half Men" crew during the shutdown if CBS and Warner Bros. TV would pay the rest.



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Horse semen on the menu at N.Z. food festival



A young girl is seen here preparing to eat a bug during the annual Wildfoods Festival in the South Island town of Hokitika, New Zealand.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AFP) – Long renowned for pioneering extreme sports such as bungee-jumping and heli-skiing, New Zealanders are now pushing culinary boundaries by serving up shots of horse semen to iron-stomached food lovers.

The equine delicacy will be on the menu at the annual Wildfoods Festival in the South Island town of Hokitika next month, along with other gastronomic delights such as raw scorpions, chocolate-covered beetles and deep-fried grubs.

"The idea is you'll have as much zizz as a stallion for a week afterwards," Christchurch racehorse breeder Lindsay Kerslake, who came up with the

semen surprise, told Fairfax Media.

He said the shots being sold at this year's festival on March 12 would taste like a milkshake and be washed down with an energy drink chaser.

Organiser Mike Keenan said he expected many festival patrons would sample the shots as a dare, and he was prepared to put his own stomach on the line.

Keenan said the festival began 22 years ago as a way of allowing city slickers to "get out of their comfort zone" and sample bush tucker.

While much of the fare such as venison and wild boar is relatively unchallenging for mainstream tastes, Keenan said organisers liked to spice up the menu with more unusual offerings.

In the past, these have included rams' testicles and bulls' penises, although Keenan admitted Kerslake may have set a new benchmark. "He thought these flavoured horse semen shots would be something different," Keenan said. "He's working on a number of flavours, from vanilla, right through to strawberry and chocolate."

Anna Nicole Smith opera wows critics in London

LONDON, England (AFP) – An opera on the tragic life of former Playboy model Anna Nicole Smith premiered at London's prestigious Royal Opera House and was applauded by critics.

"Anna Nicole" charts the tumultuous life and death of the former glamour model who first hit the world's headlines in 1994 when she married 89-year-old oil tycoon J Howard Marshall.

Marshall died in 1995, sparking a long and acrimonious battle over the multi-millionaire's fortune. The Texas



born stripper died of a drug overdose in 2007 aged 39.

Dutch soprano Eva-Maria

India to host new international art biennale

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – India's booming art scene is set for a new event modelled on the Venice Biennale that will feature 60 international artists by the sea in the tropical south of the country.

The Kochi-Muziris Biennale, launched this week, will be held in January next year and will be the first event of its kind in India, featuring artists from all over the world in a three-month show.

Conceived by artists Bose Krishnamachari and Riyas Komu and funded in part by the local state of Kerala, the show will make use of numerous industrial spaces in Kochi and exhibition areas in the ancient port of Muziris.

Artists working in all mediums will be invited, including several from countries with which India has poor diplomatic relations, notably neighbouring Pakistan and rival Asian powerhouse China, he said.

Young lesser-known figures with potential will be picked alongside established international names that will pull in the crowds and hopefully establish the event -- and India -- on the international art map.

Kochi, he said, was an ideal



Street market, Cochin, Kochi, India

location given its physical beauty, its mixing pot of religions and its role as a cultural crossroads when it served as a centre of the spice trade around the Arabian Sea.

Arab traders and Dutch and British colonial adventurers have all left marks on the city, built on a cluster of islands, that boasts an array of old warehouses and dilapidated buildings that will be put to use by the organisers.

Muziris is an nearby ancient port city on the Malabar Coast that is being excavated by the Kerala government.

Despite the similarities in concept and the seaside loca-

tions, Komu is wary of comparing his event with Venice, which has more than 100 years of history and draws tens of thousands of people to north-east Italy every two years.

The only other international art event in India is the growing Indian Art Summit, whose third edition last month in New Delhi drew 34 foreign galleries, double the number from its previous edition.

The Art Summit has helped to raise public awareness of contemporary art, which is still very much in its infancy in India, with buyers and fans mostly restricted to the chattering classes of major cities.

Brazil's bishops lash 'bad' reality TV

BRASILIA, Brazil (AFP) – The Catholic Church in Brazil protested against reality TV shows popular in the country, calling them "bad" for society.

The shows, said the Brazilian National Bishops Conference, "attack the dignity of people, as much that of the participants who are as fascinated by a cash prize or fleeting celebrity as the public, which is made up of Brazilian families."

Brazilians are fervent watchers of reality TV programs, particularly their version of Big Brother, which is in

its 11th season and which puts contestants in a studio house monitored in every corner by cameras.

While the winner receives 900,000 dollars, other participants -- especially female ones -- typically pose naked in magazines after appearing, or pop up as presenters in other television shows.

Brazil's bishops bemoaned

the "low moral level" of these sorts of shows, calling them "an abusive and immoral exploitation."

They called on television networks in Brazil -- the country with the world's largest Catholic population -- to think hard about their role in social life, and for authorities to be more active in overseeing such fare.

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India not a worry, says Bangladesh captain



Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan

DHAKA (AFP) - Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan on Friday brushed aside fears about taking on power-packed India in today's World Cup opener, saying his side was confident of doing well.

"Our bowlers are in good form, the batsmen have been doing their job and our fielding has improved a lot," Shakib told a crowded media conference at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium.

"This tournament is not only about playing India. We have six league matches to play and we have to perform in all of them. If we get our basics right, we will do well."

The match assumes im-

portance in the light of Bangladesh's stunning five-wicket win over the Indians in the previous World Cup in 2007, which knocked the 1983 champions and 2003 finalists out in the first round.

On paper, the day-night clash may look like a no-contest with tournament favourites India having won 20 of their 22 one-day matches against the Tigers.

But all-rounder Shakib insisted his team will not be under pressure when they take the field against Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men in front of some 25,000 partisan home fans.

"The guys have played enough cricket to cope with the pressure," he said. "We are not looking too far ahead. We will take it one game at a time and concentrate on the job at hand."

Shakib said it was good to start the tournament against the co-hosts.

"I don't think it can get better than this," he said. "Playing a strong side like India has its advantages. We want to prove ourselves against the best."

Familiar home conditions that assist the slow left-arm spin of Shakib and Abdur Razzak have seen Bangladesh win seven and lose just one of their last 10 home one-dayers.

The victories included an astonishing 4-0 rout of Daniel Vettori's New Zealand in October.

Shakib conceded the toss will play a vital role since the late evening dew may make it harder for the team fielding second.

"If there is no dew, conditions will be good for batting till the end," he said. "We can't rely only on spin, because teams from the sub-continent usually play spin quite well."

Shakib conceded Bangladesh will miss former captain and pace spearhead Mashrafe Mortaza, who was ruled out of the tournament due to a recurring knee injury.

"He has been a great performer for us over the past few years," the captain said. "But this current side has been playing well over some time now and we have a very settled combination."

Mortaza, 27, has been the pivot of the Bangladesh attack with 146 one-day wickets, including a match-winning 4-38 against India in the last World Cup.

Bangladesh will depend on the left-handed openers, Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes, the fluent Junaid Siddique and former captain Mohammad Ashraful to give the bowlers a reasonable total to defend.

India and Bangladesh have been drawn with England, the West Indies, South Africa, Ireland and the Netherlands in group B, with the top four advancing to the quarter-finals.

League, union resume talks with federal mediator

WASHINGTON (AFP) - National Football League and players union representatives returned to the bargaining table on Friday with a federal mediator trying to broker a deal to avoid a labor shutdown ahead of the March 3 expiration of their current deal.

Mediation is non-binding, but the move could help solve problems in talks that have been contentious when conducted at all, a two-month drought being ended on the eve of the Super Bowl on February 5. Talks broke off again last week after one session.

Billionaire owners and multi-millionaire players have been unable to agree on how to divide a king's ransom of riches, approximately 9.1 bil-



Taj Mahal

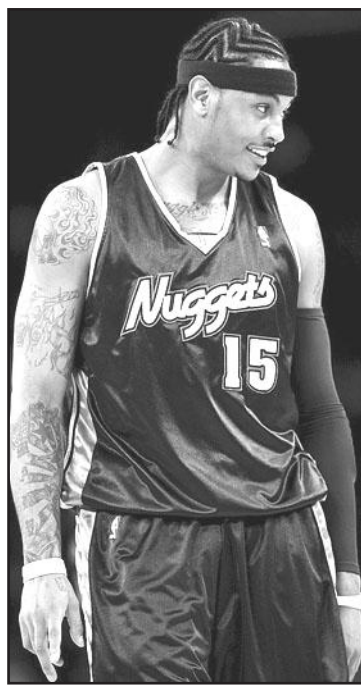
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Nets reach tentative trade deal for Anthony



NEWARK (AFP) - Carmelo Anthony would join the New Jersey Nets under terms of a tentative trade deal worked out with the Denver Nuggets that still needs his approval, The Record newspaper re-

ported Friday.

Terms of the deal would require Anthony, who is averaging 25.2 points and 7.6 rebounds a game for the Nuggets, to sign a three-year contract extension worth 65 million dollars, and that is the sticking point, unnamed sources told the suburban New York newspaper.

The four-time All-Star forward would leave Denver along with Chauncey Billups, who is averaging 16.5 points a game, plus Sheldon Williams, Melvin Ely and Renaldo Balkman.

In exchange for trading away their two top scorers, the Nuggets would receive Devin Harris, the Nets' No. 2 scorer at 15.0 points a game, plus Derrick Favors, Troy Murphy, Ben Uzoh and four first-round NBA Draft picks from the Nets.

The Nets, who require Anthony's agreement to an extension to make the deal, are expected to meet with him this weekend in Los Angeles at the NBA All-Star Game, where Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov of Russia, general manager Billy King and part-owner/entertainer Jay-Z are also in attendance.

Anthony is from New York and the New York Knicks have also been interested in him, but the Nets are planning to play in a new arena being built in New York's Brooklyn borough starting in 2012 and Anthony is from Brooklyn.

Wie on Kim's shoulder in Thailand

PATTAYA (AFP) - South Korea's Kim In-Kyung stayed in front of the field at the season-opening LPGA Thailand tournament Friday, leading by just one stroke from Michelle Wie and world number one Yani Tseng.

Kim, who tied the tournament record with a stunning first round of nine-under-par 63, shot a second round 73 for a 36-hole total of 136 in the \$1.45 million tournament

at Siam Country Club's Old Course.

Wie of the United States struck a 68 to be one shot behind Kim, with Tseng of Taiwan also on a two-round total of 137 after a 71.

A clutch of four players are two shots further back on 139 -- 31-time Tour winner Juli Inkster (73), fellow US player Paula Creamer (70), Japan's Momoko Ueda (69) and South Korea's Choi Na-Yeon (70).

Pele warns of World Cup delays

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Delays in getting Brazil ready to host the 2014 football World Cup could end up with the South American nation being "red-faced" when the time comes, retired soccer legend Pele said Friday.

"We are really worried," he told a media conference in Sao Paulo, speaking for the Brazilian Football Confederation and FIFA.

"I think Brazil is running the risk of being red-faced in the way it is managing the

World Cup, principally in communication and airports," he said.

The comment by the Brazilian considered by many to be the greatest footballer of all time highlighted the fact that work on almost all of the 12 World Cup venues in the country were behind schedule.

Airports in Brazil are also saturated, with flight delays and cancellations a common occurrence each day.



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Bantamweight Donaire's win streak on line in Las Vegas



WBC bantamweight champion Fernando Montiel (L) of Mexico and Nonito Donaire of the Philippines pose during a news conference at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada

LAS VEGAS (AFP) – Filipino bantamweight Nonito Donaire puts his 24-fight win streak on the line when he battles Mexican champion Fernando Montiel in a world title fight this Saturday at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

Donaire is seeking to take two titles from the 31-year-old Montiel who holds the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Organization belts.

Las Vegas oddmakers have tabbed Donaire as the favourite to win in the first 118-pound main event on HBO television in four years. Montiel has been a world champion since 1999 and has a record of 44-2-2 with 34 knockouts.

Montiel is only the fourth Mexican boxer to capture world titles in three different divisions, next to his idol and the legendary Julio Caesar Chavez.

Donaire (25-1, 17 KOs) comes from General Santos City -- the same hometown as Manny Pacquiao. He beat

Ukrainian Wladimiro Sidorenko in his last fight to extend his win streak to 24 fights.

The 28-year-old former world flyweight champion, who is comfortable throwing punches with either hand, wobbled Sidorenko just 75 seconds into the fight with a powerful right and the stinging left hook combination.

His resume also includes a 2007 win over dual Aussie/Armenian champion Vic Darchinyan.

Two-time Super Bowl champion Duerson dead - Obit

CHICAGO (AFP) - Former Chicago Bears safety Dave Duerson, a two-time Super Bowl champion in 11 National Football League seasons, was found dead in his Miami home on Thursday night. He was 50.

No cause of death has been determined in the passing of Duerson, who played for Chicago's 1985 Super Bowl winners and another American football crown in 1990 with the New York Giants.

"Our family asks that you

Ligety wins world giant slalom gold

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AFP) – Ted Ligety won the men's world giant slalom title on Friday with France's Cyprien Richard taking silver and Philipp Schoerghofer of Austria claiming bronze.

Ligety's combined winning time after the two runs was 2min 10.56sec, to claim his second major title, while Richard took silver at just 0.08sec back and Schoerghofer came third at just 0.43sec in a tight finish.

"It's less nerve-wracking being fourth after the first run than it is being a leader," said a relieved Ligety.

"Especially on this kind of conditions, you have to attack really hard, but I made it down, I had a good run."

Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal, the leader after the morning's first run, finished just outside the medals as he clocked 0.49sec to take fourth.

Having won Winter Olympic gold for the super combined in Turin five years ago, this is 26-year-old Ligety's second major title.

The outstanding performance of the second run was France's Richard who jumped from seventh to second as he



added to his gold from Wednesday's team event.

"In the last two events, I have given it my all, as I like to do," said the Frenchman. "I can't stand to finish in the fourth place at this event."

"I really wanted to be on the podium today."

Schoerghofer clung onto his bronze by just 0.06sec from Svindal who was hunting his second medal here after winning Monday's super combined.

"I'm so happy I got the bronze now, it was brutally hard on the second run," said the Austrian. "Ligety is a deserving world champion."

"I was totally nervous (between the two runs), I'm glad

it's over now. I was really nervous, but I made it OK."

Ivica Kostelic, the current World Cup leader, finished well outside the medals at more than a second back despite being the third fastest from the morning's run.

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Duncan starts all-star game in place of Yao

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — NBA Western Conference all-star coach Gregg Popovich says Yao Ming will be replaced by Tim Duncan as the starting centre in Sunday's all-star game at Staples Center arena.

Duncan, who plays for Popovich's San Antonio Spurs, was chosen as a reserve and will be making his 12th straight all-star start.

China's Yao was named as the starting West centre despite missing nearly all of this season because of an ankle injury.

Houston Rockets centre Yao picked up 1.14 million votes to easily beat out Los Angeles Lakers Andrew Bynum by more than 170,000 votes.

Yao was voted in as a starter for the eighth time in his career by NBA fans despite undergoing season-ending surgery in January.

The flawed vote came about because of a huge backing Yao received from China.

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Wozniacki topples Clijsters to reclaim No. 1 spot

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - Caroline Wozniacki regained the world number one ranking from Kim Clijsters when she reached the semi-finals of the Dubai Open with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Shahar Peer on Friday.

The top-seeded Dane was obliged to play on an outside court, under the lee of the giant Emirates building, next to a cosy row of trees, and with small spectator terraces containing a few hundred people.

This faraway court was the only place deemed safe for Peer, who last year became the first Israeli woman

ever to compete in the UAE and who still requires constant guarding in areas separate from other players.

Now though Peer did not find her best ground stroking rhythm until she was a set and 0-4 down, and although she recovered to within a point of 5-5, Wozniacki's tenacious rallying sealed it.

Clijsters held the top spot for one week after winning the Australian Open last month and reaching the final of the Paris Open last week, and Wozniacki will now cling to the pinnacle at



least until after the 12-day Indian Wells tournament which starts March 23.

But the rankings topper

claimed she was far from overjoyed by her achievement.

"I've said all along I wasn't sure about whether I could become number one this week, and that my focus really is not upon that.

"For the moment it's more important to concentrate on what I have to do and try to win the tournament."

Wozniacki added: "Of course it's nice to be back at number one. I gave Kim one week, so now I will probably have it for a few more weeks now.

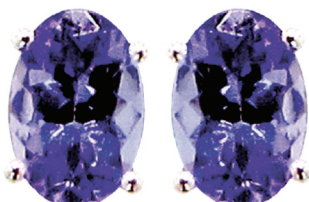
"I have a lot of friends here and I'll go out to dinner with one of my best friends and her family before preparing for the match tomorrow (Saturday)."

The Dane next has a semi-final against Jelena Jankovic, the former world number one from Serbia, who recovered from 3-5 down in the final set to beat Kaia Kinepi on Thursday night and now recovered from 1-4 down in the final set against Samantha Stosur, the fourth seeded Australian, to win 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7/4).

"I finished better than I started, but I made too many mistakes," said Peer.

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